

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00884 110849Z

14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /160 W

----- 072005

R 110700Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4947

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB

SUBJ: BONGO'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS

1. IN GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON WITH ME OCTOBER 10
PRESIDENT BONGO DISCUSSED MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS AND
US-GABONESE RELATIONS (LATTER BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL).

2. BONGO SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT IF WAR DRAGGED ON
IN MIDDLE-EAST IT COULD GO BADLY FOR ISRAEL. HE TOLD
ME HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO TO UGANDA (AS HAD BEEN
EARLIER ANNOUNCED) BUT TO SEND A DELEGATION INSTEAD
WHEN HE HEARD OF AMIN'S PLANS TO GET INVOLVED IN WAR
AGAINST ISRAEL.

3. BONGO DISCUSSED MOBUTU'S RECENT BREAK WITH ISRAEL
AND POINTED OUT THAT GABON WAS FINDING ITSELF IN
EVER SHRINKING NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH STILL
RECOGNIZED ISRAEL. THIS SUBJECT CLEARLY PREOCCUPIED
HIM AND HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT GOOD IT WOULD DO
TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THIS
WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AND THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME TO KEEP CHANNELS OPEN AND
ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. HE SEEMED TO AGREE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00884 110849Z

AND I DO NOT EXPECT HE WILL TAKE ANY ACTION IN

BREAKING WITH ISRAEL AT THIS TIME. A SUDDEN DECISION
TO DO SO CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE EXCLUDED DEPENDING ON
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

4. BONGO MENTIONED HIS CONVERSION TO ISLAM IN OFF-HANDED
FASHION, CLEARLY SEEKING TO PLAY DOWN ITS
SIGNIFICANCE. HE SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO CHANGE HIS
NAME TO 'OMAR AS SUGGESTED TO HIM AT TIME HIS
CONVERSION, AND JOKED ABOUT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES
HE HAD RECEIVED.
MCKESSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LIBREV00884
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCKESSON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731039/aaaabcge.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BONGO'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS
TAGS: PFOR, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005